



Mansfield Middle School Association
October 5, 2011
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02.

Those in attendance:

Allison Altieri, Sara Anderson, Kelly Brouse, Jeff Cryan, Jill Deans, Kerry DeVivo, Lisa Drzewiecki, Nancy Gilbertson, Vanessa Gonzalez, Sandy Hill, Bethany Javidi, Kevin Lambert, Megan Meikle, Sally Milius, Jeannette Picard, Jamie Pociask, Karen Sommer, Ruth Washington

President Diane Briody brought the meeting to order and members introduced each other.

Special Guest – Sara Anderson – Mansfield Community Playground

Mansfield Advocates for Children is working to build a fully accessible playground for the children of our town. The playground will be sited on property at the rear of the Mansfield Community Center. The playground would have a lifespan of 25 years with minimal maintenance and would aim for 100% recycled materials. Designs will be prepared by Leathers and Associates with input from community members. A five to six day build will require 100's of volunteers. The project will also require help from members of the arts community. Community built playgrounds generally cost 50% less than commercially built playgrounds due to the amount of sweat equity. Jeff Cryan noted that he had worked with Leathers & Associates many years ago and it was a wonderful experience.

Timeline:

- Design Day, Spring 2012
- Build Day, Spring 2013

Fundraising

- Corporate sponsorship
- Component sales
- Sale of bricks and tiles

Please contact Sara if you would like to participate in any way. She can be reached at 487-9710 or sdeputya@gmail.com

Reports

President: Diane Briody explained the role of parent representatives, who serve as contact persons for grade level teams.

Vice-President: Alison has worked to prepare the newsletter. Please contact her with updates for our next issue.

Treasurer: Megan Meikle reviewed treasury balances. The MMSA now has a total balance of \$6000 prior to completion of the teacher grant program.

+ - \$999 deposit:	- -\$160.20 expenses (payment to food service)
\$714 donations at Open House	coffee cups – Ed. Week
\$285 other direct giving	cookies & juice – June '11
- \$449.57 History Day reimbursement	

Lisa Drzewicki has offered to help with the paperwork necessary to renew the MMSA's tax exempt number. The paperwork must be completed by December 12th at a cost of \$100 to the qualifying organization. Other items discussed:

- Megan will purchase coffee cups for Education Week
- A new organizer is needed for the mixed bag fundraiser
- the group decided to continue with the Scrips fundraiser

Secretary: Jeannette Picard reviewed the minutes for our last meeting. The secretary's report was accepted unanimously.

Administrative: Jeff Cryan reported on a number of items:

-Team Leaders are:

- Grade 5 – Brenda Moulton
- Grade 6 – Heather Tamsin
- Grade 7 – Mark Jones
- Grade 8 – Donna Stratton

These teachers are the contacts for parent reps, but there may be different liaisons for specific activities.

- Progress reports will be distributed on Friday, 10/7
- The German Exchange has gone well. Trips have been taken to Cape Cod and New York City
- 300 students are involved in after school activities. In addition to the regular late buses, transportation is available to after school care programs at the three elementary schools for younger students.
- Rehearsals are moving along for the school musical “Honk”. Performances will be held in mid-November
- Interesting menu programs are being held in the school cafeteria. A buffet line will promote the new food “plate” has been held on Tuesdays. Pictures can be found on StorrsPatch.
- MMS singers were invited to participate in a concert at the Jorgenson Auditorium performing with the Chronus Quartet.
- Bus routes are now balanced. Some new routes have been added to create shorter bus travel times and buses are now running smoothly on their routine schedules. A new system of management has helped to manage the timing of routes. Parents should contact the office if there are any problems.
- Education Week will be celebrated at MMS from October 17th-20th. Parent participation is welcome.
- A presentation on Internet Safety is planned for November 2nd at 7:00. Jim Griffith, technology coordinator has set up a time for parents to talk with him about their concerns.
- Fourth grade instrumental lessons have begun. Students take the middle school bus to MMS and transported to their elementary schools for the beginning of the school day.

Faculty Representative: Kelly Bourse reported on a number of activities:

- Kelly has contact John Crepeau regarding the Joyce Crepeau Fund to benefit students receiving Special Education support. This has been set up as an “as-needed” open fund. The fund was set up in memory of Joyce Crepeau an MMS parent and active member of the MMSA who passed away suddenly last year. Parents can contribute to the fund throughout the year by contacting Kim Reggae in the MMS office. Faculty members will also sponsor dress down days to support the fund. The fund has a balance of \$2000 at present. Dr. Rachel Leclerc, director of Special Education, is overseeing the fund.
- Each grade level will be participating in field trips in the next month:
 - Grade 5 – Mystic
 - Grade 6 – Overlook Farm
 - Grade 7 – In-school Archaeological Dig
 - Grade 8 – Boston/Freedom Trail
- The student council is sponsoring a Halloween Party and “Trick or Treat for Unicef” boxes.

Other Business

-*MMS Garden* – Sally Milius spoke about the MMS Garden. Started two years ago, the garden provides produce to the soup kitchen, donating 120pounds of produce this summer. It is supported by UConn’s Eco House and Camp Mansfield (summer work). Volunteers will be needed to pitch for tasks like weeding, etc. Discussion was held concerning ways to foster interest in the garden. This activity will be added as a regular committee. Sally has volunteered to serve as committee chair and will also write an article for the MMS newsletter. She may also contact StorrsPatch and the Reminder. The suggestion was also made to contact the EO Smith Agriculture program for support. Leftover plants might also be sold at a plant sale.

-*Fundraising*- Nancy Gilbertson discussed recent fundraising activities:

- Friendly’s fundraiser – The recent bankruptcy filing by Friendly’s and the closing of the Storrs restaurant should not affect receipt of fundraising proceeds for the MMS night. The event was successful and MMS families filled the restaurant. Over \$200 was raised. The regional supervisor has assured Nancy that the money earned will be sent to the MMSA.
- Water bottle sale – One of two major fundraisers discussed at our last meeting, the water bottle fundraiser is in the works. The water bottles are dishwasher safe and have just a \$25 upfront for the sponsoring organization. There is a ten day turnaround. The bottles will be offered for sale in November,

in order to complete sales in time for the holiday season. Members decided to offer both a plastic and a metal water bottle, both with the MMS logo. The water bottle sale was approved unanimously as a fundraiser.

-Papa Gino's – A Mansfield Middle School day will be held on a Sunday in January, most likely from 12-6. MMS families will go in with a flier to be counted toward the day's proceeds of 20%.

-Other fundraising ideas were also discussed. T-shirt sales are one option welcomed by members. Jeannette Picard will get the list of fundraising committee volunteers to Nancy. (Note: all committee groups and volunteers are listed on the MMSA website.)

-Grants – Lisa Drzewieki has received several grant requests. Teachers have until mid-October to submit requests and the Grants Committee will present grant requests at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannette Picard

Secretary (pending approval at our next meeting)

Our next meeting will be held on November 16th, postponed from November 2nd.